

16. NESTING BEHAVIOUR OF ESTUARINE CROCODILE, *C. POROSUS* SCHNEIDER

During my faunistic survey tour of 1975 in the Bhitarkanika, a delta of Brahmani—Baitarani estuary, Orissa, the collector of estuary Crocodiles for the hatchery of the Forest Department, Government of Orissa at Dangmal, stated that he saw while fishing in the river Kalibhanja Dia near Talichua a Crocodile coming up from the river and moving towards the mangrove jungles. When he followed the Crocodile she turned and chased him. He escaped by climbing up a nearby tree. After this incident she proceeded a further 300 ft into the jungle and after about half an hour the crocodile returned to the river. He came down and inspected the mound nest built up by the crocodile with vegetable matter and mud and collected 46 eggs from inside it.

Deraniyagala's (1939)¹ observation that out

of the 4 nests of *C. porosus*, two nests had females guarding in a nearby wallow or a trench and in the other two though the wallows were there the guards were absent. In this respect he noted that the crocodile spends a considerable part of its watch basking on top of the nest. He suggested that this action of the crocodile was of some help for the incubation or protection of eggs from the mid-day Sun. Moreover he explained the absence of guardians in other two nests as due to human disturbance.

The above mentioned fact in case of behaviour of the Bhitarkanika crocodile indicates that for guarding the nest or incubation of laid eggs the presence of the female is not necessary or always associated with the breeding behaviour of Estuarine crocodile in nature.

ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
27, CHOWRINGHEE ROAD,
CALCUTTA 700 016,
June 28, 1976.

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¹ DERANIYAGALA, P. (1939): Tetrapod Reptiles of Ceylon. Dulau & Co. Ltd., pp. x + 412.

17. LOCOMOTOR RESPONSES OF *CALOTES* TO WATER (AGAMIDAE: SAURIA)

The lizards of the genus *Calotes* are superficially quite similar to such iguanids as juvenile *Iguana*, *Basiliscus*, and *Enyalius*. Furthermore, they share similar habitats, bushes and trees, often along water courses. All are slender bodied lizards with stout heads, long tails, enlarged hind legs and greatly enlarged toes. Most iguanids are capable of swimming and

a few can even dash across the surface of water without sinking by special modifications of the hind toes (Laerm 1973). However, even species lacking such structural complexity, such as *Iguana*, and *Amblyrhynchus* of the Galapagos, will dive into the water and swim with lateral undulations of the body. Some incidental observation and preliminary ex-